

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAY 9 2006

International Application No.: PCT/EP03/012599

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Priority Date: 11 November 2003

Title: RAPID COUPLING

Inventors: MEIER, Ulrich and GREMINGER, Hans

Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
Customer No.

23646

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

**REQUEST TO BEGIN NATIONAL EXAMINATION**

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicants herewith submit to the United States Designated Office after publication and before 30 months from the priority date the following items under 35 U.S.C. § 371:

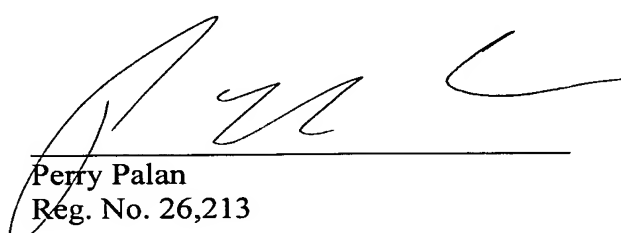
1. This is an express request to immediately begin national examination procedures under 35 U.S.C. § 371(f);
2. English Translation of the subject PCT Application and the amended claims under Article 34 PCT;
3. Preliminary Amendment;
4. Information Disclosure Statement, PTO 1449 and cited references; and
5. The filing fee is calculated below:

**CLAIMS AS FILED, LESS ANY CLAIMS CANCELLED OR ADDED BY AMENDMENT**

For	No. Filed		No. Extra	Large Entity	Total
National Stage Basic Fee:				\$300	\$ 300.00
National Stage Search Fee:				\$400	\$ 400.00
National Stage Examination Fee :				\$200	\$ 200.00
Total Claims:	6	- 20	0	x \$50	\$ 00.00
Independent Claims:	1	- 3	0	x \$200	\$ 00.00
<b>TOTAL FEES:</b>					<b>\$ 900.00</b>

6. A check in the amount of \$900.00 is enclosed.

7. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Barnes & Thornburg LLP Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (967/44780).



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Perry Palan  
Reg. No. 26,213